



The Elba Clipper

Volume 128, Number 51 50 Cents Elba, Alabama Thursday, May 8, 2025 1 Section, 8 Pages Plus 2 Adv Inserts

For the 2025-2026 school year

CCBOE members approve transfer of current ZCHS assistant principal to same job at NBES

The 2025-2026 school year for Coffee County Schools will find a current assistant principal doing the same job at a different school within the system following actions taken Thursday evening, May 1, during the May meeting of the Coffee County Board of Education.

Upon recommendation of superintendent Kelly Cobb, the board approved several personnel matters, including the transfer of Johnny "Randy" Bryant from assistant principal at Zion Chapel to assistant principal of New Brockton Elementary School for the next school year. Another teacher transfer approved was that of Jennifer Koehler from New Brockton Elementary to teach at New Brockton Middle School next year.

Resignations approved by the board included Jackson Baker, TEAMS teacher at Zion Chapel High, effective April 22; Kira Thomas, teacher at Kinston Elementary, effective June 1; James Thompson, teacher at Zion Chapel High, effective May 23; and Abigail Grantham, teacher at Zion

Chapel Elementary, effective May 23rd.

Three retirements were accepted. Those retiring in June include Dawn Nolin, teacher at New Brockton Elementary, and Deborah Williams, teacher at New Brockton Middle - both effective June 1; and Heatherly Smith will retire as the technology integration facilitator for the school system, effective June 30th.

The board also approved a lengthy list of teacher hires for the 2025-2026 school year. The hires included: Crystal Mount, teacher at Kinston Elementary; Carmen Hilliard, teacher at New Brockton Elementary; Alexis Caron, teacher at New Brockton Elementary; Rachel Stinson, teacher at New Brockton High; Julian "Ben" Thompson, teacher at New Brockton High; Bailey Hansen, teacher at Zion Chapel; Deborah Smartt, teacher at Zion Chapel; Kristen Shinaberry, teacher at New Brockton Middle; Amber Michelle Jones, TEAMS math teacher at Zion Chapel High; and Masey Snyder, teacher at Zion Chapel Elementary.

Regarding support personnel, the board accepted a resignation from Alexis Thomas, custodian at New Brockton Middle School, effective May 23rd.

Also, the board voted to hire Wesley Killingsworth, 10-month custodian at New Brockton Elementary School, Jessica Wingard, CNP worker at New Brockton Elementary School; Danny Turner, bus driver for the school system, and Trevor Davis, 10-month custodian for New Brockton Middle School. These hires were for the 2025-2026 school year.

A highlight of the evening last Thursday for the board was the annual end-of-year awards program highlighting accomplishments of graduating students from each high school.



The Elba Volunteer Fire Department responded Friday afternoon, May 2, during the three o'clock hour to a fire on the property of Windham Lumber Company in Elba. As the photo shows the wood pile fire was endangering a structure on the property when the fire department was called, but firefighters were able to get the blaze under control quickly, which prevented any spreading of the fire.

Vandalism of water filtration system at Elba Splash Pad discovered

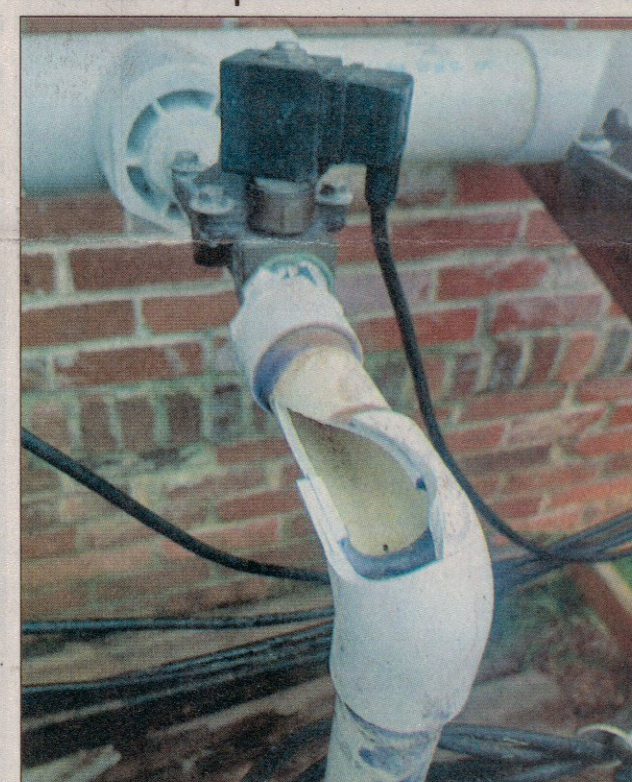
The City of Elba and Elba Recreation Department again need the help of the community in identifying those responsible for vandalism of city property.

Shortly after finding the bathrooms at TigerTown Park vandalized last week, employees with the recreation department soon discovered the bathrooms were not seemingly the only thing vandalized.

While working to prepare the Elba Splash Pad for opening later this month, the rec department employees discovered the water filtration system used to operate the splash pad had apparently been hit by the vandals as well. Upon further inspection, it was discovered that the majority of the pipes for the filtration system has been destroyed (as shown in the photo provided).

The Splash Pad generally opens for the season each year during the Memorial Day holiday weekend, and city officials said this week they hope to be able to still make that opening. However, the vandalism to the equipment will take time to repair.

If anyone has any information that would help city officials identify the person(s) responsible for these recent crimes to the city property, officials asked that you share that information with the local police or city leaders.



This photo shows one of the many water filtration pipes that allow for operation of the Elba Splash Pad. Most all of the pipes for this system were found to be vandalized recently hindering care for the Splash Pad in prepping it for summer usage.

A Message from Elba High School principal Jermaine Shakespeare

As the proud new principal of Elba High School, I am honored to join a community that understands the power of tradition, unity, and high expectations.

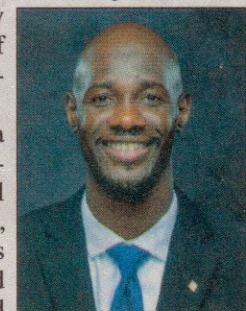
In our community, there is a rich tradition of excellence centered around a legendary football program, a legacy of excellence, teamwork, and resilience that has spanned for generations. I intend to build on that tradition and extend its spirit into every classroom, hallway, and school experience.

At Elba High School, excellence is not an occasional act; it is our standard. From our dedicated teachers to our hardworking students, from our Friday night lights to increasing our daily academic rigor, we will hold ourselves to the highest levels of achievement. Excellence will define how we teach, learn, lead, and serve.

I look forward to working hand-in-hand with parents, educators, alumni, and community leaders to ensure our students are not only champions on the field, but also in life. Together, we will cultivate an environment where students are equipped for success—academically, socially, and emotionally.

Let's continue the legacy, and raise the bar because excellence is the standard.

In Tiger pride,
Principal Shakespeare



Registration underway for Elba Public Library's summer program

Registration for the Elba Public Library Summer Program "Color Our World" began Thursday, May 1, and is still underway. Those interested in participating can register online at www.elbapubliclibrary.com and click on 'Summer Learning Program' - scroll to the bottom of the page to fill out and submit the form; also, stop by the Elba Public Library, located on Simmons Street in downtown Elba to register in person.

Jennifer Amlong, library director, has shared a 'wish

list' for the summer program. "We always have friends asking how they can help," she said. "Donations to the summer program are always helpful."

Wish list items needed include individually wrapped snack, juice boxes, small bottled waters, and washable markers (fat and thin). Elba Public Library programs are free. There is a \$10 fee for supplies for those participating in the art classes, which are set to begin May 21st (must be pre-registered).

Make A Difference...ELBA!



Miss Elba 2025 Keelie Moseley wants to "Make a Difference" during her time as Miss Elba. Her platform during as reign as Miss Elba is 'Bloom Where You're Planted.'

"Just like wildflowers, each of us is unique, and we all face tough days - much like flowers have moments when they wilt," Moseley said. "Through my platform, we'll be planting wildflowers around our school and community - watching them grow as a symbol of our personal growth." Together, Moseley said she wants the community to focus on ensuring all have the tools and support needed to thrive, even during challenging times.

Last Saturday, Moseley had this display set up at Elba's Rockin the River where she gave away packets of wildflower seeds encouraging others to plant them.

"Let's grow and bloom together," she said.

Keelie Moseley is "Making a Difference...ELBA!"



The Elba Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony Friday afternoon, May 2, for Beacon of Hope in celebration of that organization opening a second location in Elba. This new Beacon of Hope ABA house is located at 122 Cordelia Avenue in Elba. Beacon of Hope provides applied behavior analysis and behavior consulting to its clients. According to Beacon of Hope leaders, the Elba program has grown to the point where additional space was needed, which lead to the opening of this second location. There also is a Beacon of Hope house located on Claxton Avenue in Elba. The Beacon of Hope officials were joined by city and chamber officials as well as Elba queens for the ribbon cutting.

EDITORIAL

EES students enjoy Community Helpers Day

Last week, Elba Headstart, Pre-K, and Kindergarten participated in a community helpers event.

In preparation for this event, Ms. Cook and Ms. Crittenden's Pre-K class conducted a weeklong lesson unit about community helpers. At the end of the week, the class dressed up as the professions they aspire to have when they grow up.

In attendance for the community helpers event were representatives from Southern Tractor, the City of Elba Utility Department, the Elba Fire Department, the Coffee County Sheriff's Department, Enterprise Rescue, and, last but certainly not least, the Dothan Police Department's Bomb Squad. This is the first time the Bomb Squad has attended the event.

Ms. Cook and Ms. Crittenden's Pre-K Class
When you grow up, what do you want to be? And what three things would you need to be awesome at that job?

Kimbella Hill: A doctor. I'll need a shot, stethoscope, and a leg thing.

Harper Green: A firefighter. I'll need a fire hat, fire suit, and fire hose.



Elba firefighters Mark Kelley and Dennis Manning talk with Elba Elementary School students during the community helpers even held last week at the school.

Kyi Cole: A football player. I'll need a football water bottle, football helmet, and a football.

Holt Harrelson: A tractor salesman. I'll need a truck, a trailer, and a tractor.

D'myuan Alvarado: A police. I'll need a police car, gun for bad guys, and handcuffs.

Stella Green: A nurse practitioner. I'll need medicine, a shot, and a heartbeat thing.

Lela Harris: A librarian. I'll need a computer, pictures, and books.

Alayah Wallace: a singer. I'll need a guitar, microphone, and a rug.

Karson Floyd-Ellis: A firefighter. I'll need water, a ladder, and a car.

Levi Kidd: A police. I'll need a badge, gun for bad

guys, and cuffs.

Yolianne Otero-Rivera: A mom. I'll need some diapers, milk, have to take the baby to bed.

A'Khari Thomas: A superhero. I'll need super powers, iron man blast, and hand blast.

Jaylin Coleman: A police. I'll need handcuffs, police hat, and a police car.

Khelise Holt: A ballerina. I'll need a microphone, a guitar, and a drum.

Aubrie Sheppard: A nurse. I'll need a thermometer, an eye exam board, and pink scrubs.

Levi Bufford: A preacher. I'll need a bible, a microphone, and suite and tie.



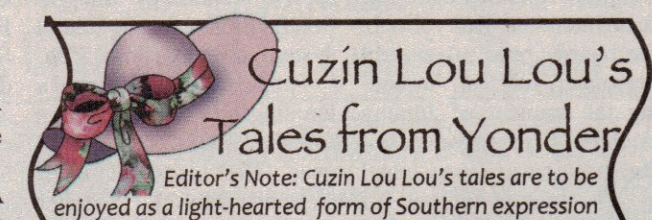
Members of the Dothan Bomb Squad are shown with EES students. This was the bomb squad's first time participating in the annual event.

Windy Thoughts

with Linda Hodge, Publisher

Well...we are even more upset this week than we were last week with vandals destroying things around town! This time it is over the Splash Pad where the vandals have destroyed piping that allows for the water filtration of the Splash Pad. This filtration system is necessary for the Splash Pad to operate, but someone decided it would be okay for them to 'bust up' the majority of the pipes. The problem was found when recreation employees started working to prepare the Splash Pad for opening later this month. Why? Why does anyone think it is okay to do these type things? While they may think it is funny...it is not! Now, they have cost the taxpayers more money to get the Splash Pad operational again for our children to enjoy. And, we still wonder why we don't have more things to offer...

We have started a new column in The Elba Clipper - the "Make a Difference...ELBA!" feature. Our intentions here are to recognize and thank those who are found doing things throughout the community to help make it a better place to live. If you see someone doing something that you think will fit our feature...such as picking up trash, opening a door for someone or just putting a smile on others faces, please share these things with us so we can help spread the cheer even further. Let's focus on the good rather than the bad, and together, let's all make a difference in Elba! We love the idea behind Keele Moseley's wildflowers project!



Editor's Note: Cuzin Lou Lou's tales are to be enjoyed as a light-hearted form of Southern expression

It has taken a whole year of ownership with the freedom edition Jeep, but Cuzin Lou Lou has finally named the Jeep!

This one will forever more be called - Louie!

Lou Lou was super excited when the name revealed itself to her.

Sister was away with friends at the time, but Lou Lou texted her...she even agreed it was a great name for the Jeep!

Shortly after officially naming Louie, Lou Lou ordered some new tube doors for him. These will depict a "soldier's scene" to further enhance the

freedom edition package to the Jeep.

Now, Lou Lou is like a kid waiting on Christmas as she anticipates the arrival of the new tube doors. Hopefully, when they do arrive, there will not be any rain in the immediate forecast so she can put the new doors to use!

Summer time is near, and Lou Lou is ready to take the top off Louie and enjoy the wind as she and the Yonder Gang enjoy Jeep life to the fullest!

Until next time...God Bless and Keep Smiling!

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Jane Brunson, Chairperson
Tom Maddox, Superintendent

The Elba Clipper

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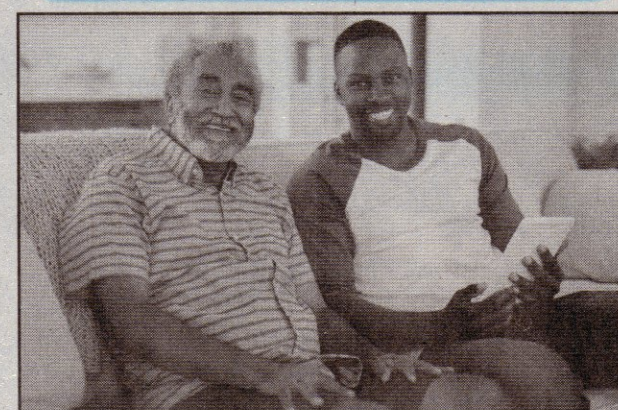
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A FEW SCENES FROM ROCKIN' THE RIVER IN ELBA



While the weather interfered with some of the activities for Rockin' the River last Saturday, May 3, in Elba, there was still fun to be had at the event! From concerts in the Elba theater to artistic demonstrations, those in attendance enjoyed the day. It was announced that the Foggy Bottom Cruisers Car Show and the Rockin the River 5K event were postponed to this Saturday, May 10...same times and same place as originally scheduled (again, weather permitting). Reportedly, the concerts held in the Elba theater were loads of fun, and the after party Saturday night kept folks "rocking" for several hours!



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Coping With the Death of a Parent

Losing a parent is an incredibly difficult experience, one that evokes a mix of emotions including pain, fear, and deep sadness. Grief, the natural and necessary process of saying goodbye, becomes the pathway to untangling the emotional bonds formed with our departed loved ones.

The grieving process varies from person to person, influenced by factors such as our relationship with our parent, age, previous encounters with death, and religious beliefs. Whether their passing was sudden or the culmination of a long illness, each individual's grief journey is unique, and no one can predict how it will unfold.

There are common reactions to the death of a loved one we may experience. Initially, shock may set in, leading us to deny the reality of their passing. This initial shock can gradually give way to numbness, creating a sense of detachment from the situation as if it were unfolding in a movie. Remember, these reactions are natural and serve as a buffer, allowing us to gradually come to terms with the truth.

During the grieving process, emotions such as anger and guilt may arise. We may find ourselves directing anger towards healthcare professionals, the funeral director, or even at God. If we believe our parent's death was preventable, we might experience anger towards them and subsequently feel guilty for harboring such emotions. Guilt may also manifest due to unresolved arguments or unfulfilled wishes, even for seemingly trivial things like missing a dinner invitation. It's important to recognize that these feelings are a normal part of the grieving process.

The mental and emotional impact of grief can take a toll on our physical well-being. Weight loss, sleep disturbances, irritability, listlessness, and even hair loss are not uncommon during this time. Additionally, as the initial shock subsides, we may experience secondary losses. These losses extend beyond the death of our parent and encompass the role they played in our lives as advisors, role models, and friends. The family home, once a gathering place for reunions, may now feel emptier. These secondary losses can intensify feelings of loneliness and longing for our parent's presence.

If we have children of our own, another challenging task awaits: telling them about the death of their grandparent. It is important to provide age-appropriate and honest explanations, avoiding misleading euphemisms that may cause confusion or fear. Children look to us for cues on how to navigate their own grief, so allowing them to witness our own grief and including them in the mourning process can be beneficial for their own healing.

If we find ourselves struggling to handle our grief, seeking professional help can be beneficial. There is no set timetable for grief, and it can be difficult to discern when professional support is needed. If concerns arise, reaching out to a counselor recommended by a funeral director, clergyman, or doctor can provide guidance and reassurance that our reactions are normal. Remember, the path to healing is unique for each individual.

If you would like a free funeral decisions guide, please email me at hayesh@hayesfuneralhome.net

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Obituaries

Obits are updated regularly on our website: www.elba-clipper.com

EDNA EARL CRABTREE JACKSON

Mrs. Edna Earl Crabtree Jackson, age 94, died peacefully Friday, May 2, 2025, in Alice, Texas.

She was born October 29, 1930 in Kinston, Ala. to her late parents, Irene and Elzer Crabtree.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, May 10, 2025, at 11 a.m., from the Wyatt Funeral Home Chapel in Opp, Ala. with burial following in Rhoades Cemetery. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Bro. Dale Patterson will be officiating. Bro. Deon Hawkins will be assisting as he was her Pastor and Sunday School Teacher for years at East Brent Baptist Church Pensacola, Fla.

Flowers will be accepted, or memorials may be made for the care of the cemetery to: Rhoades Cemetery Fund, c/o LeJune Davis 334/208-6052, 3044 Hwy 189 Kinston, AL 36453.

Along with her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Harvey Louis Jackson; daughter, Diane Judith Jackson; sister, Evelynne Crabtree Elder; brothers, Junior Cecil Crabtree, Thomas Junior Crabtree, and Dewey Edward Crabtree; and two brothers-in-law, Dee Elder and Prentiss Savell (Uncle Prent).

Survivors include her sons, Alan C Jackson (Joyce), Robstown, Texas, and Kevin R Covalt (Meg); daughter, Jackie V Hadden, Pensacola, Fla.; sisters, Thelma Savell, Pensacola, and Velma Moore (Mac), Elba, Ala.; nine grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

SYBIL JUANITA HINES

Ms. Sybil Juanita Hines, age 81, of Elba, Ala., died Friday, May 2, 2025, at Troy Regional Medical Center in Troy, Ala.

Graveside services were held Saturday, May 3, 2025, from Jack Assembly of God Church Cemetery with Rev. Derek Snellgrove officiating and Hayes Funeral Home of Elba directing. She was preceded in

death by her parents, Vanuel and Bonnie Armstrong Nelson; husband, Steve Hines; and son, Vince Arnold.

Survivors include her daughters: Sharon (Dale) Stinson, Elba, Donna (Billy) Stuart, Troy; son: Edie (Susan) Arnold, Elba; brother: Phillip Nelson, Elba; sister: Faye Sauls, Thomaston, Ga.; along with seven grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

JOAN BLAZER

Mrs. Joan Blazer, age 80, of Elba, Ala., died Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at her home.

Funeral services were held Friday, April 18, 2025, at Searcy Funeral Home and Crematory Chapel with Rev. Daulton Keel officiating. Burial followed in Meadowlawn Cemetery with Searcy Funeral Home and Crematory directing.

Survivors include her loving husband, Jessie Blazer, Elba; two sons, Jeffrey Blazer (Lorri), Howell, Mich., and John Blazer, Elba; four grandchildren,

Jordan Blazer, Matthew Blazer, Joshua Blazer and Alison Blazer; sister, Pat Hudson (Jimmy), Elba; and brother, John Powers, Denville, Ala.



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YARD SALE

Whitewater Baptist Church, 4301 Hwy. 125, Elba, will hold a Yard Sale on Saturday, May 17, from 8 a.m. until 12 noon.
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5/8-2t-chg.

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LEGAL NOTICES:

Public Notices also are posted online at: www.alabamapublicnotices.com (no extra charge)

-- More Legal Notices on Page 5 --

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA ENTERPRISE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARY MYRTICE ZUKOSKI, Deceased.
CASE NO. PR 2025-045

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to Mary Mauldin, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Mary Myrtice Zukoski, deceased, on the 16th day of April, 2025 by the Honorable Jodee R. Thompson, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons having claims against the said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.
/s/ Jodee R. Thompson
Judge of Probate
4/24, 5/1 & 8-pd

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of RAE NELL SMITH MOORE Deceased
Case No. PR-2025-055

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Joshua D. Moore as Administrator of the Estate of Rae Nell Smith, deceased, on the 16th day of April, 2025, by the Honorable Jodee R. Thompson, Judge of Probate.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons having claims against the said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.
/s/ Joshua D. Moore
Joshua D. Moore
4/24, 5/1 & 8-pd

IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BARBARA BOYLE DECEASED
CASE NO.: PR-2025-070

NOTICE OF HEARING TO: Dot Pinson; Karen Brinkley; Helen Brown; Myrle Sands; Jan Parker; Tommy Wilson and all heirs at law and next of kin of BARBARA BOYLE who may be unknown and are not named.

You are hereby notified that JOEL YOUNG has filed a petition to probate a document purporting to be the Last Will and Testament of BARBARA BOYLE, deceased.

A hearing on said petition has been set for the 16th day of June, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at which time you may appear and contest the same if you see fit.

DONE AND ORDERED this 23rd day of April, 2025
/s/ Jodee R. Thompson
Judge of Probate
5/1, 8 & 15-pd

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA ENTERPRISE DIVISION

IN RE: ESTATE OF: Velma Winona Adams, Deceased
CASE NO. PR-2025-073

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Letters of Administration of Velma Winona Adams, deceased, having been granted to Amber Elizabeth Adams, Personal Representative, on the 23rd day of April, 2025, by the Probate Judge, Coffee County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.
/s/ Jodee R. Thompson
Hon. Jodee R. Thompson
Probate Judge, Coffee County, Alabama
Richard W. Whittaker, Attorney

300 E. Lee Street
Enterprise, Alabama 36330
(334) 393-5146
5/1, 8 & 15-pd

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF GENEVA COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of Jack Junior Green, Deceased
Case No. 25-0069

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary of said deceased have been granted to Debra Kay Brackin, Executor (Personal Representative,) on the 22nd day of April, 2025 by the Honorable Toby L. Seay, Judge of Probate Court, Geneva County, Alabama. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against the said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or same will be barred.
/s/ Toby L. Seay
Judge of Probate

Alfred J. Danner
Attorney for Petitioner
P.O. Box 33
Geneva, AL 36340
5/1, 8 & 15-pd

IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF GARY J. STUMP, DECEASED
CASE NO.: PR-2025-048

NOTICE TO FILE CLAIMS

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of Gary J. Stump, deceased, having been granted to the undersigned on the 30th day of April, 2025, by the Honorable Jodee R. Thompson, Judge of the Probate Court of Coffee County, Alabama. Notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate that they are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or they will be barred.
/s/ Christopher Charles Stump
Christopher Charles Stump
Personal Representative of said Estate
5/8,15&22-pd.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA ENTERPRISE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF: JEREMY AND ELIZABETH FLIEG
CASE NO. PRA-2024-007

ADOPTEE: M.M.B. (DOB: 6/15/2020)

ORDER

All interested parties: Jeremy Branson Garner, and any Unknown Father are hereby notified that Jeremy and Elizabeth Flieg has filed a petition in the Probate Court of Coffee County, Alabama for the adoption of **Memphis Mae Beltran** and that a hearing has been set on the 14th day of July, 2025, at 9:00 o'clock A.M., at which time you may appear to contest the same if you so desire.

Please be advised that if you intend to contest for said Petition, whose name and address are as shown below and with the Clerk of said Probate Court.
/s/ Jodee R. Thompson
Jodee R. Thompson
Probate Judge

Barbara W. Wade, Attorney
Attorney for Petitioner
Bull & Wade, LLC.
P.O. Box 1161
Ozark, AL 36360
(334) 774-1124
daleattybwade@gmail.com
5/8,15,22&29-chg.

LEGAL NOTICE The State of Alabama, Coffee County Probate Court

Case No. PR-2025-072

ESTATE OF JOHN WILSON WRATHER, Deceased

Letters of Administration upon the Estate of said decedent, having been granted to the undersigned

on the 5th day of May, 2025 by the Honorable Jodee R. Thompson, Judge of the Probate Court of Coffee County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said Estate are required to file an itemized and verified statement of such claim in the office of the said Judge of Probate within six months from above date, or said claim will be barred and payment prohibited.
Annie Jean Wrather, the Personal Representative of the Estate of John Wilson Wrather
Case No. PR-2025-072

Jodee R. Thompson, Judge of Probate

Attorney:
Joel Caldwell
Cory Watson, P.C.
2131 Magnolia Avenue S, Suite 200
Birmingham, Alabama 35205
Telephone: (205) 328-2200
Facsimile: (205) 324-7896
Email: jealdwell@corrywatson.com
5/8,15&22-pd.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: LINDA LOU BARBER, DECEASED.
CASE NO.: PR-2025-032

NOTICE TO FILE CLAIMS

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of Linda Lou Barber, deceased, having been granted to the undersigned on the 5th day of May, 2025, by the Honorable Jodee R. Thompson, Judge of the Probate Court of Coffee County, Alabama, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said Estate that they are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or such claims will be barred.
/s/ Heavenly Hunter
Heavenly Hunter
Personal Representative
5/8,15&22-pd.

IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA ENTERPRISE DIVISION

In the Matter of the Estate of Lewis N. Martocci a/k/a Lewis Nicholas Martocci, Deceased.
Case No.: PR-2025-031

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of Lewis N. Martocci a/k/a Lewis Nicholas Martocci, deceased, having been granted to Terry Lynn Thatcher, Personal Representative, on the 5th day of May, 2025, by the Honorable Jodee R. Thompson, Probate Judge for Coffee County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.
DONE this the 5th day of May, 2025.
/s/ Jodee R. Thompson
Jodee R. Thompson
Probate Judge
5/8,15&22-pd.

IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA

In the Matter of the Estate of David Roy Ellis, Deceased.
Case No.: PR-2025-083

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to Benjamin Lehn Ellis, Personal Representative, on the 1st day of May, 2025 by the Honorable Jodee R. Thompson, Probate Judge for Coffee County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.
DONE this the 1st day of May, 2025.
/s/ Jodee R. Thompson
Jodee R. Thompson, Probate Judge
5/8,15&22-pd.



The Luncheon Pilot Club of Enterprise recently celebrated its 49th birthday. The club was organized on February 16, 1976 by the nighttime Pilot Club of Enterprise and was chartered on April 11, 1976 at a banquet held at Enterprise State Junior College, now Enterprise State Community College with 40 charter members. Nearly one-half century later, this community service organization continues to serve the city of Enterprise and the Coffee County area. The name "Pilot" was inspired by the mighty river boat pilots who represented leadership and guidance. The Pilot motto is "true course ever", the Pilot Club principles are friendship and service, the Pilot colors are green for life and gold for sincerity of purpose; and the Pilot emblem is a riverboat's pilot wheel with eight spokes. For more information about becoming a member of the Luncheon Pilot Club of Enterprise contact Bonnie Gilmore at bonjean4260@gmail.com. Those pictured above include (from left): Heather Waterman, Linda Peterson, Sandra Danford, Paulie Thill, Carol Bass, Julie Mills, Marika Martin, President Debbie Shelton, Bonnie Gilmore, Fran Walters, Leslie Adams, Jane Baxley, Brandy Woodham, Rhonda Welch, and Caroline Gephart.

Elba Elementary School announces graduation times:

Kindergarten Graduation - Monday, May 12, at 9 a.m., EHS auditorium
Sixth Grade Graduation - Friday, May 16, at 6 p.m., EHS auditorium



The New Hope Senior Citizens Center held its annual Easter Celebration on Thursday, April 17, as the seniors hunted and found over 140 eggs. Martha Key and Ann Sawyer found the golden eggs. After the hunt the group enjoyed food, fun and fellowship while discussing the true meaning of Easter. Joyce Lee and Pency Brown are pictured showing off the eggs they found during the hunt. Every day is a new adventure and full of joy at the New Hope Senior Citizens Center.

LEGAL NOTICES:

(More Legal Notices on Pages 4)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF GENEVA COUNTY, ALABAMA

STEVEN AUSTIN Plaintiff,

V. LLOYD G. STINSON, LANCE STINSON, FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS, and LANDS KNOWN AS GENEVA COUNTY PARCEL NUMBER 18-09-30-4-003-002-000 WHOSE ADDRESS IS EAST RIVERSIDE AVENUE, GENEVA, ALABAMA 36340, Defendants.

CASE NO.: 34-CV-2025-900029.00

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

LLOYD G. STINSON AND LANCE STINSON, LANDS IDENTIFIED AS PARCEL # 13-06-24-2-000-052-001, and FICTITIOUS DEFENDANTS who claim an interest in the subject property known as PARCEL # 18-09-30-4-003-002-000/0 A PARCEL OF LAND IN THE SOUTH-EAST ¼ OF SECTION 30, TOWNSHIP 1 NORTH, RANGE 22 EAST, GENEVA COUNTY, ALABAMA AND BEING BETTER DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTH BANK OF PEA RIVER AND THE WEST LINE OF THE SOUTHEAST ¼ OF SECTION 30, TOWNSHIP 1 NORTH, RANGE 22 EAST; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY ALONG THE BANK OF PEA RIVER 1,345 FEET; THENCE SOUTHERLY 830 FEET; THENCE WESTERLY ALONG EAST RIVERSIDE AVENUE A DISTANCE OF 1,190 FEET; THENCE NORTH 1,205 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, BEING A PART OF FRACTIONS E AND F, SECTION 30, TOWNSHIP 1 NORTH, RANGE 22 EAST, THE LAST DEED OF RECORD IS OR BOOK 401, PAGE 009, whose identities or present whereabouts are unknown, must answer the Complaint to Quiet Title of Steven Austin in the Circuit Court of Geneva County, Alabama, and other relief on or before June 9, 2025, or thereafter a judgment by default may be rendered against the Defendants in Case No.: CV-2025-900029.00, Circuit Court of Geneva County, Alabama. /s/ Ashley A. Powell
CIRCUIT CLERK

Attorney for Plaintiff:
Jeffery D. Hatcher
P.O. Box 189
Geneva, AL 36340
(334) 684-8524
4/17,24,5/1&8-chg

In the Circuit Court of Coffee County, Alabama, Enterprise Division, DR-2025-900060

IN RE: Melanie Vega Garza v. Domingo Mora Garza,

NOTICE OF FILING OF COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE

TO: DOMINGO MORA GARZA

By virtue of an *Order* of the Circuit Court of Coffee County, Alabama, made on 9th day of April, 2025 and it appearing by such *Order* that personal service upon you could not be made because your whereabouts are unknown to the Plaintiff, Melanie Vega Garza, you are hereby notified as follows: Melanie Vega Garza has filed her *Complaint for Divorce*, in the Circuit Court of Coffee County, Alabama. You have 30 days from the fourth publication of this notice in which to answer said *Complaint for Divorce* at the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Coffee County Courthouse, Enterprise, Alabama.

David J. Harrison (HAR149)
Attorney for Plaintiff
254 South East Ave.
Ozark, Alabama 36360
(334) 684-8729
office@davidharrisonlaw.com
4/17,24,5/1&8-chg.

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE STATE OF ALABAMA COUNTY OF GENEVA
Default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by BETTY J. RODGERS, an unmarried individual and JENNIFER BLUE, spouse of KENNETH BLUE, on February 8, 2018, to First National Bank of Hartford, which mortgage is recorded in OR Book 998 Page 33, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Geneva County, Alabama, the undersigned, as Mortgagee, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in the said mortgage will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash in front of the main entrance of the Geneva County Courthouse in Geneva, Alabama, on May 15, 2025, during the legal hours of sale the following real estate situated in Geneva County, Alabama, to wit:

Lot Number Two (2) in Block A of Highland Park Subdivision in the Town of Hartford, Alabama, as per plat of said Highland Park Subdivision recorded in the Probate Office of Geneva County, Alabama in Plat Book 1, Page 62, subject to those certain restrictive covenants recorded in Miscellaneous Book 47, Page 149, in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Geneva County, Alabama.

Property Address: 505 Magnolia Avenue, Hartford, AL 36344
Together with the hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging. Said property will be sold on an "AS IS, WHERE IS" basis subject to the right of way easements and restrictions of record in the Probate Office of Geneva County, Alabama, and will be subject to existing special assessments, if any, which might adversely affect the title to the subject property.

This sale is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expenses of foreclosure. Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Pro-

grams may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process. FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF HARTFORD Mortgagee David F. Holmes DAVID F. HOLMES, P.C. Post Office Box 1180 Slocomb, Alabama 36375 (334) 886-3123 Attorney for Mortgagee 4/24,5/1&8-chg.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY ADMINISTRATOR

PROBATE COURT OF GENEVA COUNTY

ESTATE OF RONALD DAVID LASSITER, Deceased
CASE NO.: 25-0044

Letters of Administration of said deceased having been granted to Sherri Lassiter, Administrator on the 22nd day of April, 2025, by the Honorable Toby L. Seay, Judge of Probate Court of Geneva County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred. Sherri Lassiter 5/1, 8 & 15-pd

IN THE PROBATE OFFICE OF COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA ENTERPRISE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PAMELAH PACE HOLLEY PETERS, Deceased
CASE NO: PR-2022-161

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: All the heirs at law and next of kin of Pamela Pace Holley Peters, deceased.

You will hereby take notice that the 16th day of April, 2025, came Christopher Pace Holley, Administrator of the Estate of Pamela Pace Holley Peters, filed a Petition to Sell for Payment of Debts for the following property: 2005 Chevrolet Impala; 1995 Monterey Fiberglass Boat; Real property located at 571 County Road 539, Enterprise, Alabama and Real Property located at 607 North John Street, New Brockton, Alabama 36351 belonging to the Estate of Pamela Pace Holley Peters, deceased. You are hereby notified that the 19th day of May, 2025 at 9:00 o'clock a.m. has been appointed to hear said Petition to Sell for Payment and Debt.

Done and dated on this 21st day of April, 2025. /s/ Jodee R. Thompson Judge of Probate

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA ENTERPRISE DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF JOSEPH WADE EDWARDS,

Deceased.

CASE NO.: PR-2019-254

NOTICE OF HEARING

You are hereby given notice that two certain instruments in writing, titled Petition for Sale of Personal Property and Petition for Final Settlement of Estate were filed by Justin Wade Edwards, Administrator of the Estate of Joseph Wade Edwards, deceased, and that the 28th day of May, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. was appointed the day for the hearing of the same at the Coffee County Courthouse, Enterprise Division, Alabama, at which time you may appear and contest same, if you see proper. DONE this the 19th day of March, 2025.

/s/ Jodee R. Thompson JON, JODEE R. THOMPSON Probate Judge Coffee County, Alabama 5/1, 8 & 15-pd

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF GENEVA COUNTY, ALABAMA IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LEVY H. WARD, DECEASED,

SHAWN W. CARTER AND MICHELE W. FIELDER, CO-PETITIONERS.
CASE NO.: 25-0074

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of Levy H. Ward, deceased, having been granted to the undersigned on the 1st day of May, 2025, by Toby L. Seay, the Judge of the Probate Court of said County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

/s/ Shawn W. Carter Shawn W. Carter Co-Personal Representative /s/ Michele W. Fielder Michele W. Fielder Co-Personal Representative

Attorney for Estate: Jeffery D. Hatcher P.O. Box 189 Geneva, Alabama 36340 5/8,15&22-pd.

STATE OF ALABAMA GENEVA COUNTY NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Default having been made in the payment of indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by Oscar Hamilton on the 26th day of May of 2022, to First South Farm Credit, ACA, which said mortgage is recorded in the Probate Office of Geneva County, Alabama, in Mortgage Book 1241 at Page 472, and in the Probate office of Covington County, Alabama, in Mortgage Book 2024 at Page 14173; and by reason of such default, having declared all of the indebtedness secured by said mortgage due and payable, and such default continuing, notice is hereby given that, acting under the power of sale contained in said mortgage, First South Farm Credit, ACA will sell at public outcry, for cash, to the highest bidder, in front of the Courthouse door, in the City of Geneva, Geneva

County, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on the 29th day of May, 2025, the following described real estate situated in Geneva County, Alabama, and Covington County, Alabama, to-wit:

PROPERTY 1: Point of beginning is a capped iron found (BLS#CA673) at the Southwest corner of the Northeast 1/4, Section 36, Township 1 North, Range 17 East, Covington County, Alabama. Thence N0° 51'54"W for 477.82 feet to a capped iron (TEM#25655), thence N89°22'31"E for 210.00 feet to a capped iron (TEM#25655), thence N0°52'43"W for 420.13 feet to a capped iron found (ALS#26950). Thence N89°21'06"E for 420.09 feet to a capped iron found (ALS#26950), thence N0°52'07"W for 419.95 feet to a capped iron found (ALS#26950) on the South margin of an unimproved drive, thence N89°21'21"E along said margin for 50.00 feet to a capped iron (TEM#25655). Thence S0°51'54"E for 1320.43 feet to a capped iron (TEM#25655) on the South line of the Northeast ¼ of the Southwest 1/4, Section 36. Thence S89°34'21"W along said South line for 679.98 feet to the POB and containing 12.49 acres more or less.

Also: Point-of-Commencement (POC) is a capped iron (9106) found at the Southwest corner of the Northeast ¼ of the Southwest 1/4, Section 36, Township 1 North, Range 17 East, Covington County, Alabama; thence N 89°34'21" East for 679.98 feet to a capped iron (#25655), thence N 0°51'54" West for 958.00 feet to a capped iron (#25655); thence S 88°22'01" East for 225.91 feet to a capped iron (#9106); thence S 88°22'01" East for 325.48 feet to a capped iron (#9106) on the West margin of McPhail Farm Road; thence S 7°47'32" West along the Western margin of said road for 947.88 feet to a capped iron (#25655) on the South line of the Northeast 1/4 of the Southwest ¼; thence S 89°34'20" West for 408.20 feet to the POB and containing 10.46 acres more or less.

PROPERTY 2: The N 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4, the NE 1/4 of the SE 1/4, the S 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4, Section 18 in Geneva County, Alabama. ALSO, the W 1/2 of the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4, Section 19, all in Township 1 North, Range 19 East, in Geneva County, Alabama. Together with the hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging and all fixtures now attached to and used in connection with the premises herein described. Said property will be sold on an "AS IS, WHERE IS" basis subject to right of way easements and restrictions of record in the Probate Office of Covington County, Alabama, and in the Probate Office of Geneva County, Alabama, and will be subject to existing special assessments, if any, which might adversely affect the title to subject property.

Said sale will be made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by the above-described mortgage, and the proceeds thereof will be applied as provided by the terms of said mortgage.

Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.

First South Farm Credit, ACA, Mortgagee Frank E. Bankston, Jr. Webster, Henry, Cohan, Speagle, DeShazo & Bankston, P.C. Attorneys for Mortgagee Post Office Box 239 Montgomery, Alabama 36101-0239 Telephone (334) 264-9472 5/8,15&22-chg.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR GENEVA COUNTY, ALABAMA

JAMES H. HUETT and JOYCE W. HUETT Plaintiffs,

vs.

CASE NO. CV-2025-900043.00

One tract of land lying in Bellwood, Alabama, and being more particularly described as follows: Beginning on Railroad right-of-way 134 feet West of Sewer pipe and running in a Northerly direction to the Bell Creek, thence up said Creek to land known as the Walter Dowling land, thence along said Dowling land West to the land known as the L.B. Spear land, thence West along Spear land to the Railroad right-of-way, thence down said Railroad right-of-way to the point of beginning, containing in all 1.2 acres more or less in Section 1, Township 2 North, Range 22 East, Geneva County, Alabama, A Defendant in rem, JIMMY MCCRAY, FORD MOTOR CREDIT CO, LLC, STATE OF ALABAMA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, and any unknown heirs and any persons claiming a right or interest in the above property. Defendants.

NOTICE OF ACTION

JIMMY MCCRAY and any and all unknown parties whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer Plaintiffs' Petition to Quiet Title and other relief by **June 30, 2025** or thereafter a judgment and default may be rendered against them in Case Number 34-CV-2025-900043.00.00 of the Circuit Court of Geneva County. Done this 1st day of May, 2025.

Ashley Powell, Clerk of Circuit Court of Geneva County /s/ David F. Holmes P.O. Box 1180 Slocumb, AL 36375 (334) 886-3123 5/8,15,22&29-chg.

SPORTS NEWS

Views From

The Pressbox

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Our youngest grandson Cannon has always been friendly, but lately he has taken it another step forward and now loves to wave at anybody or anything that he sees. He will wave at cars, trucks, helicopters, planes and last week even waved to a tree that's limbs were blowing in the wind. We may just have a politician in the family.

For what it is worth....

*** *I know some of the Elba High track athletes* were a little disappointed last weekend that they didn't bring home gold medals. However, I have never been more proud of a group of Tigers than I am of this team that capped off an historic season with a solid showing against the best in the state. The six Elba track team members left their names forever in the history book of Elba High athletics and put Elba on the scoreboard at the state meet in both boys and girls divisions. Coach Tyler Reeves deserves credit for giving countless hours in organizing the team, acquiring equipment and uniforms, financing the team through fund-raising efforts, and I am sure pulling some money out of his own pocket. Coach Reeves and all his team members deserve their place in the rich history of Elba Tiger athletics!

*** *The AHSAA baseball and softball playoffs* continued this week and as the week began there were three area teams still alive in softball and one team alive in baseball. In softball, Kinston, Brantley and Zion Chapel were all at the South Region tournament, in Gulf Shores, while in baseball Brantley was making plans to host a semifinal match-up. Kinston (30-7) has been one of the state's top 1A teams all season with wins over Andalusia and Pike Road, and after a fast 10-0 start closed the season with eight straight wins to head into the region brimming with confidence. Brantley (23-12) has been busy all season taking on all comers and despite what is not one of its best regular season records, does have wins over Andalusia, Geneva and Russell County, will enter the region tourney with wins in eight of its nine games and as always will be the team to beat in the 1A ranks. Zion Chapel (15-14) played its toughest schedule ever in an attempt to get ready for post-season play and had wins over Ashford and Headland, just to name a few, while its losses included battles against 5A power Houston Academy, 2A defending state champ Wicksburg, 3A defending state champ Opp and 7A power Enterprise, making the 2A Lady Rebels a dangerous opponent. Over in baseball, Brantley made it look easy with a third round sweep past Autauga Academy and is only one more series win away from a state finals berth. The Bulldogs weren't thought to be as strong as in years past after a pair of early-season losses to Straughn 20-10 and 12-3, but got better and better as the season progressed and owns a 7-1 record in post-season play, making the Bulldogs a true state title contender.

*** *It looks like the Alabama High School Athletic Association* will have to fight some battles off the field since some politicians in the state seem determined to re-write the way the AHSAA determines a school's classification and has also begun the process to allow high school athletes to benefit in the world of NIL. First things first, the Alabama House of Representatives passed a bill last week that would exclude certain English language learner (ELL) students from being counted in a public school's average daily attendance figures when determining the numbers used to determine a school's athletic classification. The bill would only count ELL students that actually participate in sports, regardless how many ELL students may be enrolled in the school. It looks like the only way this could work would be to make the ELL students commit to playing sports prior to the beginning of a school year, or else schools would not count students that might change their minds and want to

join a team. One north Alabama congressman declared that a school in her district had to dissolve its varsity football program because according to AHSAA numbers the school was classified as 5A and could not compete, and also declared that if not for ELL students the school would be 2A. The AHSAA stated it was "disappointed" by the legislation because schools could discourage ELL students from participating in sports in an attempt to be placed in a lower classification. A second piece of legislation added to the same bill would place two elected politicians to the AHSAA board as voting members. The reason given was to provide "oversight," said one congressman, but the truth is that many politicians have been wanting to get their hands in the AHSAA for years to make changes to the organization that is member-ruled and since it accepts no public funds has never had to answer to the politicians. In yet another piece of legislation, a bill introduced in the House of Representatives would allow high school student-athletes to profit off their name, image and likeness (NIL). The bill would reportedly give a framework of NIL to the AHSAA for consideration,

and politicians in favor of the bill stated it would give a student incentive to enroll or stay in school. A total of 38 states have introduced NIL laws, and proponents insist many high quality players could leave to play in states where they could receive the funds. While the AHSAA appears to realize that NIL is not going away and will no doubt effect sports in the future, it stated that it was its mission to 'support pure amateur athletics in high schools in Alabama.' I know everyone has their own opinions about NIL, but mine is that it has already destroyed college football and over time would do the same at the high school level.

*** In closing.... The Elba Tigers hit the football field last week to begin spring football drills and while the numbers were a little smaller than usual, everyone that had on an Elba helmet was hard at work as Coach Cooper began to implement his system. It was good to see the Tigers back on the field, and at work, and I have to admit it got me a little excited about a return to the sport that we all enjoy so much. Hey, the season is less than four months away.

End season at area tourney

Elba Lady Tigers fall one win short

The Elba Lady Tigers competed in the Class 1A, Area 3 high school softball tournament last Monday and fell one win short of advancing to the South Regionals as they posted a 2-2 record in the double-elimination event.

The Lady Tigers began tournament action with a lopsided 21-4 win over Georgiana. Elba trailed 4-0 heading into the bottom of the first inning, but a two-run double by Ana Caldwell and a two-run single by A'Lyric Whitfield ignited an Elba rally as the Lady Tigers combined two hits with seven walks, three hit batters and three Georgiana errors to put 13 runs on the scoreboard to take command. Elba did receive four more walks and had one batter hit by a pitch in the second, but also got the chance to swing the bats as a single by Kaleigh Russell started the inning, while Ana Caldwell added an rbi double, Payton Parks added an rbi double and Sinia Smedley added an rbi single as the Lady Tigers upped their lead to 21-4, and easily held on for the three-inning win. Ana Caldwell had 2 hits, both doubles, scored 3 runs and had 5 rbi's to lead Elba at the plate, while Sinia Smedley added 1 hit, scored 2 runs and had 4 rbi's; Kaleigh Russell added 1 hit, scored 4 runs and had 1 rbi; A'Lyric Whitfield added 1 hit, scored 2 runs and had 2 rbi's; and Mary B. O'Neal added 1 hit, scored 3 runs and had 1 rbi. Jadyn Caldwell was the winning pitcher, in relief, as she tossed three innings and allowed two earned runs on one hit and five walks, while striking out seven.

The Lady Tigers ran into Brantley in semifinal action and saw an early 2-0 lead vanish in a 17-2 loss. A leadoff single by Kaleigh Russell got Elba off to a fast start, and when Mary B. O'Neal was hit by a pitch Elba had two runners on base with no outs. Both runners moved up a base on a stolen base, while sacrifice



Elba Lady Tiger pitcher Mary B. O'Neal prepares to deliver a pitch as infielders get ready for action in last week's area tournament.

bunt by A'Lyric Whitfield scored Russell, and O'Neal scored on a wild pitch as the Lady Tigers jumped on top 2-0. The early fireworks were the only excitement for Elba; however, as Brantley combined one hit with 17 base on balls, eight wild pitches and eight Elba error to circle the bases and hand the Lady Tigers a 17-2 loss. Kaleigh Russell had 2 hits and scored 1 run to lead Elba at the plate, while Jadyn Caldwell added 1 hit and Mary B. O'Neal scored 1 run. A'Lyric Whitfield pitched three innings and allowed four earned runs on one hit and 17 walks.

Alex Grimes had the lone Brantley hit, scored 2 runs and had 2 rbi's, while Marley Kilcrease and Coco Stamps both scored 3 runs. Grimes pitched four innings and allowed one earned run on three hits, while striking out six.

The Lady Tigers challenged McKenzie in an elimination game and scored 17 runs during a four-inning explosion to stay alive with a wild 19-8 win. Payton Parks ripped an rbi triple and later scored on an error as Elba jumped ahead 2-0 in the top of the first, only to see McKenzie rally in the bottom of the frame as it combined two hits with two walks to plate three runs to slip on top 3-2. Elba still trailed 3-2 heading into the top of the third, but Kaleigh Russell reached on

a bunt single to open the inning and scored on an rbi single by Parks to pull the Lady Tigers into a 3-3 tie, and Elba took advantage of an error to add two more runs to regain the lead at 5-3. A triple by Taylor Day to leadoff the fourth inning sparked another Lady Tiger rally, and they took advantage of four more McKenzie miscues to plate four runs to push their lead to 9-3. Elba used two hits and two walks to up its lead to 12-3 in the fifth, and after McKenzie pulled within 12-5 in the bottom of the frame, the Lady Tigers regained command with a seven-run sixth to take a big 19-5 advantage. Back-to-back singles by Sinia Smedley and Day to lead off the inning lit the fuse for the late explosion, while Parks added a two-run double and Ana Caldwell blasted a three-run homer as the Lady Tigers put the game out of reach and held on to claim the 19-8 win.

Payton Parks had 4 hits, scored 4 runs and had 5 rbi's to lead Elba at the plate, while Taylor Day added 3 hits and scored 3 runs; Ana Caldwell added 2 hits, scored 2 runs and had 3 rbi's; Sinia Smedley added 2 hits, scored 1 run and had 1 rbi; Lady Stinson added 2 hit and scored 2 runs; and, Kaleigh Russell added 1 hit and scored 3 runs. Mary B. O'Neal pitched seven innings and allowed seven

earned runs on six hits and five walks.

The Lady Tigers tangled with Red Level with a trip to the regional tournament on the line and saw an early 1-0 lead slip away in a 10-6 loss. Mary B. O'Neal reached on an error, stole second and third, and then raced home on a wild pitch to put Elba up 1-0 in the top of the first, but Red Level used a home-run and an error by Elba to sneak ahead 2-1 in the bottom of the inning, and then added two more runs in the third to take a 4-1 lead. A leadoff double by Payton Parks followed by a two-run homer by Ana Caldwell pulled Elba within 4-3 in the fourth. However, Red Level continued to find its way to the plate and after five innings owned a big 10-3 lead. The Lady Tigers took advantage of a Red Level error to plate two runs on the six and added one run in the seventh on a bunt single by Taylor Day and another Red Level error, but it was too little, too late, as Elba's season ended with the 10-6 defeat.

Payton Parks had 2 hits and scored 2 runs to lead Elba at the plate, while Ana Caldwell added 1 hit, scored 2 runs and had 2 rbi's; Taylor Day added 1 hit and scored 1 run; and, Kaleigh Russell added 1 hit. Mary B. O'Neal pitched six innings and allowed three earned runs on 10 hits and four walks.

Ledbetter places 3rd in javelin

Elba track team makes history at state

The Alabama High School Athletic Association held its annual Class 1A-3A 'Outdoor State Track Championships' last weekend in Cullman, and led by the performances

of Elba's Jacob Ledbetter and Nyasia McCullough left their mark on the meet with both the boys and girls teams earning rankings in the final scoring. The boys placed 18th

in a 29-team field, with the girls placed high in a 28-team field.

Ledbetter, a senior, earned 11 points with a third place finish in the Boys javelin with a throw of 133-06 and a fourth place finish in the Boys 100 Meter Run with a time of 11.46, while McCullough, a freshman, earned two points in the Girls Shot Put with a throw of 30-04.50.

Other Elba competitors included Ky' Avian Stoudemire, a freshman, who placed 20th in the Boys 300 Meter Hurdles with a time of 52.57; Sydney Silar, a junior, who placed 23rd in the Girls 400 Meter Run with a time of 1:12.70; Nyasia McCullough, a freshman, who placed 23rd in the Girls Discus with a throw of 60-09; Emmanuel Cooks, a senior, who placed 18th in the Boys Shot Put with a throw of 37-01; and, Anya Adams, a freshman,

who competed in the Girls Long Jump.

Elba is coached by Tyler Reeves, who established the program.



JACOB LEDBETTER takes the podium at meet.

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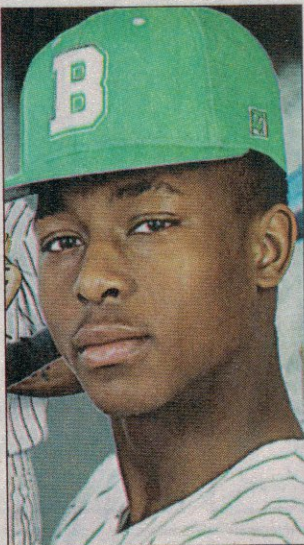
SPORTS NEWS

Brantley advances to 1A baseball semifinals with sweep of Autauga

The Brantley Bulldogs enjoyed their Friday afternoon trip to Autauga County as they advanced into the semifinals of the Class 1A high school baseball playoffs with a 13-3, 15-5 doubleheader sweep over the Autauga Academy Generals.

In the opener, the Bulldogs jumped out to a 13-0 lead in the top of third inning and coasted in with the 13-3 win. A leadoff single by Jayden Parks and a two-run triple by Cooper Layton got Brantley off to a fast start, while Tyler Carter added an rbi single and Chaz Brannum delivered an rbi double as the Bulldogs grabbed a quick 6-0 lead. Thomas Whitehurst had a two-run single in the second to keep the early rally alive, and the Bulldogs took advantage of numerous General miscues as their lead grew to 12-0 in the big opening game victory.

Thomas Whitehurst had 2 hits, scored 1 run and had 3 rbi's to lead Brantley at the plate, while Chaz Brannum added 2 hits, scored 2 runs and had 1 rbi; Tyler Carter added 1 hit, scored 3 runs and had 1 rbi; AJ Kilpatrick added 1 hit, scored 2 runs



TYLER CARTER

and had 2 rbi's; and, Cooper Layton added 1 hit, scored 1 run and had 2 rbi's. Cooper Layton pitched four and one-third innings and allowed three earned runs on four hits and four walks to pick up the win on the mound, while Colton Searcy got the final two outs and struck out one.

In game two, the Bulldogs rallied from a 4-0 third inning deficit to complete the sweep with a big 15-5 win. Brantley trailed 4-0 heading into the bottom of the third, but combined three hits with one walk and two General errors,

sparked by a base-loaded double by Jon Harper Kilcrease to sneak on top 5-4. Autauga Academy pulled even at 5-5 in the top of the fifth. However, the Bulldogs added six more runs in the bottom of the frame and added four more runs in the sixth to end the series. A leadoff single by Kilcrease ignited the fifth inning fireworks, while AJ Kilpatrick and Reese Odom both added rbi singles, and in the sixth a leadoff home-run by Tyler Carter and a two-run double by Odom helped the Bulldogs clinch the series win.

Reese Odom had 3 hits, scored 3 runs and had 3 rbi's to lead Brantley at the plate, while Jon Harper Kilcrease had 3 hits, scored 2 runs and had 3 rbi's; Jayden Parks added 3 hits, scored 1 run and had 2 rbi's; AJ Kilpatrick added 2 hits, scored 2 runs and had 2 rbi's; and, Tyler Carter added 1 hit, scored 2 runs and had 1 rbi. Kilcrease was the winning pitcher as he tossed five innings and allowed four earned runs on four hits, with seven strikeouts, while Jayden Parks pitched one inning and struck out two.



KINSTON LADY BULLDOGS - 2025 AREA CHAMPIONS

Kinston Lady Bulldogs roll to area title

The Kinston Lady Bulldogs hosted the Class 1A, Area 2 high school softball tournament last week and put on a show for their fans as they hammered Florala 11-0 and 19-0 to claim the tournament title.

In the tourney opener, the Lady Bulldogs scored in every inning to post the 11-0 five-inning win. Three walks and a sacrifice fly by Lauren Norris combined to put Kinston on top 1-0 in the first, and the Lady Bulldogs added four runs in the fourth led by an rbi single by Madisyn Jones and an rbi double by Maddie Williamson. Kinston's lead grew to 8-0 in the bottom of the third thanks to a walk and two Florala errors, while the Lady Bulldogs got an rbi double from Camdyn Norris and an rbi single by Aubrey Norris in the fourth

to finish off the 11-0 win.

Madisyn Jones had 2 hits, scored 2 runs and had 3 rbi's to lead Kinston at the plate, while Camdyn Norris added 2 hits, scored 3 runs and had 1 rbi; Lyla Bruce added 2 hits and scored 2 runs; Maddie Williamson added 1 hit, scored 1 run and had 1 rbi; and, Aubrey Norris added 1 hit and 1 rbi. Lilli Sumblin pitched a five-inning, 3-hit shutout with eight strikeouts.

The Lady Bulldogs ran into Florala again in the tourney finals and this time needed only three innings to get the job done as they rolled to a lopsided 19-0 win. A two-run single by Brynne Kelley and a two-run home-run by Maddie Williamson helped Kinston jump out to an early 4-0 first inning lead, while the Lady Bulldogs added seven runs

in the second, sparked by a two-run single by Madisyn Jones and a two-run double by Lauren Norris, and added eight more runs in the third as Kelley delivered with a two-run single and Aubrey Norris blasted a two-run homer to end the Lady Bulldogs beat down.

Brynne Kelley had 3 hits, scored 3 runs and had 4 rbi's to lead Kinston at the plate, while Maddie Williamson added 3 hits, scored 3 runs and had 2 rbi's; Aubrey Norris added 2 hits, scored 2 runs and had 2 rbi's; Madisyn Jones added 1 hit, scored 3 runs and had 2 rbi's; Lauren Norris added 1 hit, scored 1 run and had 2 rbi's; and, Taylor McKinney added 1 hit, scored 1 run and had 1 rbi. Lilli Sumblin and Lauren Norris combined to pitch a three-inning, 2-hit shutout with four strikeouts.

Brantley Lady Bulldogs dominate area foes

The Brantley Lady Bulldogs continued their dominance against area opponents last week as they outscored their three victims by a combined score of 38-2 to claim the Class 1A, Area 3 tourney championship.

The Lady Bulldogs met Elba in the opening round and after falling behind 2-0 in the top of the first inning scored run in bunches to claim a big 17-2 win.

Brantley, which took advantage of 17 walks, six wild pitches and seven errors, was led at the plate by Alex Grimes with 1 hit, 2 run scored and 2 rbi's; and, Marley Kilcrease with 1 hit and three runs scored. Coco Stamps also scored 3 runs, and Emma Crawley and Campbell Hawthorne scored 2 runs, apiece. Alex Grimes pitched four innings and allowed no earned runs on two hits, while striking out six.

The Lady Bulldogs tangled with Red Level in the finals of the winner's bracket and claimed an 11-0 win as they pulled ahead early and pulled away late.

Marley Kilcrease had 3 hits, scored 2 runs and had 2 rbi's to lead Brantley at the

plate, while Alex Grimes added 2 hits, scored 1 run and had 2 rbi's; Kennedy Baggett added 2 hits, scored 1 run and had 1 rbi; and, Adalida Latham added 1 hit, scored 2 runs and had 2 rbi's. Alex Grimes pitched a five-inning one-hit shutout with five strikeouts.

The Lady Bulldogs pulled ahead early and never looked back as they claimed the tournament

title with a dominating 10-0 win over Red Level, in the tourney finals. Kennedy Baggett had 3 hits, scored 1 run and had 3 rbi's to lead Brantley at the plate, while Campbell Hawthorne added 1 hit, scored 1 run and had 2 rbi's; Adalida Latham added 1 hit and scored 1 run; and, Marley Kilcrease scored 2 runs. Alex Grimes pitched a five-inning two-hit shutout with eight strikeouts.

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WHITFIELD SIGNS WITH SOUTHERN UNION - A large gathering of family, friends and coaches were present last week when Elba basketball standout A'Lyric Whitfield (seated, center) signed to continue her career at Southern Union Community College, in Wadley. Sitting on each side of A'Lyric are her parents, Angel & Nick Whitfield as the other family, friends and coaches gather around them.

Whitfield ready for next challenge

Elba Lady Tiger basketball standout A'Lyric Whitfield ended months of speculation last week when she signed to continue her career at Southern Union Community College, in Wadley.

Whitfield, a three-time All-State and Super 12 selection as a four-year starter at Elba, led the Lady Tigers to three straight appearances in the South Region finals, as well as two trips to the Final Four, and scored over 2,000 points during her career.

"To me it is much more than just a signature," said Whitfield, after her signing, "it is the start of something big. All the effort and all the sacrifices are paying off and it is a commitment

to keep pushing and keep growing. I chose Southern Union because I felt a real sense of community and a closeness between all the students and coaches. I felt a good chemistry as soon as I got to know the players and coaches, and it motivated me to reach the next level, both as a player and a person."

"My high school career at Elba was a journey for sure," added Whitfield. "I learned a lot, grew a lot and the experiences helped shape my game and gave me the drive to chase my goals. At Southern Union, I see my role as a point guard or shooting guard, but will be ready to do work had and do my best wherever the teams needs me. Each game will

give me an opportunity to refine my skills and improve as a player. The future is exciting and I am ready to make my mark."

"I am super proud of A'Lyric and all her accomplishments," said Lady Tiger head coach Stonewall Smith. "I was blessed to be able to coach her during her senior season and I know she is going to do great things in college."

"We want to welcome A'Lyric to the Bison family," stated Southern Union head coach Earl Taylor. "She came prepared and she has been a great young lady from the day I met her, has always been respectful and I am looking forward to great things."

Zion Chapel advances to South region

The Zion Chapel Lady Rebels competed in the Class 2A, Area 4 high school softball tournament last week in Troy and claimed three wins in five games over a two-day span to claim runner-up honors in the tourney to punch their ticket to the South Region tourney.

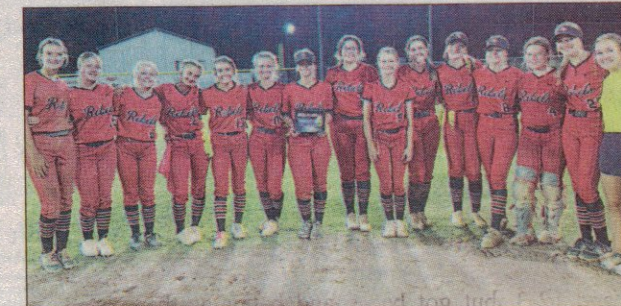
The Lady Rebels began tournament action with an exciting 4-0 win over Luverne, sparked by a no-hitter tossed by Riley Bannin. Zion Chapel jumped out to a 1-0 first inning lead when Riley Bannin singled and later scored on a sacrifice bunt by Shea Wambles, and upped its lead to 2-0 in the third on an rbi single by Alyssa Forehand. The Lady Rebels scored again in the fourth thanks to a Luverne error, and added their final run of the afternoon in the fifth when Shea Wambles led off with a double and later scored on another Luverne error to help Zion Chapel close the door on the 4-0 win.

Shea Wambles and Riley Bannin both had 1 hit, scored 1 run and had 1 rbi to lead Zion Chapel at the plate, while Alyssa Forehand added 1 hit and 2 rbi's and Emily Rhodes added 1 hit. Bannin pitched a complete game no-hitter with 15 strikeouts.

The Lady Rebels ran into regular season area champ Pike Liberal Arts in the winner's bracket finals and saw a late rally fall short in a 3-2 loss. Pike Lib scored twice in the second and once in the third to carry a 3-0 lead into the top of the fourth; however, the Lady Rebels staged a rally in the inning sparked by a leadoff single by Aubrey Bassett and a two-run single by Alyssa Forehand as they pulled within 3-2. Zion Chapel wasted a two-out double by Shea Wambles in the fifth and again had the tying run on base in the sixth after a one-out single by Kaylee Hodge, but could never catch up and dropped the 3-2 decision.

Kaylee Hodge had 2 hits to lead Zion Chapel at the plate, while Alyssa Forehand added 1 hit and 2 rbi's, Aubrey Bassett and Shea Wambles both added 1 hit and scored 1 run, and Sydney Boothe added 1 hit. Boothe pitched six innings and allowed two earned runs on two hits, while striking out five.

The Lady Rebels tangled with Luverne, again, in



an elimination game, and jumped out to a 7-0 lead before holding on late to post an 8-3 win. Sydney Boothe ripped an rbi triple to help the Lady Rebels grab a 2-0 first inning lead, and the lead grew to 4-0 in the second thanks to a single by Emily Rhodes and a pair of Luverne errors. A leadoff single by Kaylee Hodge followed by an rbi double by Landry Hataway sparked a three-run fourth inning outburst as Zion Chapel pushed its lead to 7-0, and while Luverne did get on the scoreboard late, the Lady Rebels never lost command and claimed the 8-3 win.

Kaylee Hodge and Emily Rhodes both had 2 hits and scored 2 runs to lead Zion Chapel at the plate, while Landry Hataway added 1 hit, scored 1 run and had 1 rbi; Sydney Boothe added 1 hit and 1 rbi; and, Shea Wambles added 1 hit. Riley Bannin and Boothe combined to pitch seven innings and allowed two earned runs on seven hits, while striking out four.

The Lady Rebels used an 8-run fourth inning rally to erase a 3-1 deficit in an exciting 10-4 win over Pike Liberal Arts, in winner's bracket action. Pike Lib jumped out to a 2-0 first inning lead, and while the Lady Rebel did get on the scoreboard in the second to pull within 2-1 on a bases loaded walk to Riley Bannin, Pike Lib remained in control and carried a 3-1 lead into the bottom of the fourth. Zion Chapel had stranded six runners on base over the first three innings, but came up with key hits in the fourth and

erupted for eight runs to grab a 9-3 lead. A one-out single by Emily Rhodes ignited the fourth inning fireworks, while Riley Bannin, Kaylee Hodge and Landry Hataway added an rbi singles as the Lady Rebels banged out seven hits in the inning to take command, and held on to head to the final game of the night.

Shea Wambles had 4 hits and scored 2 runs to lead Zion Chapel at the plate, while Landry Hataway added 3 hits, scored 1 run and had 1 rbi; Kaylee Hodge added 2 hits, scored 2 runs and had 1 rbi; Sydney Boothe added 2 hits and scored 1 run; Riley Bannin added 1 hit, scored 1 run and had 2 rbi's; and, Alyssa Forehand and Emily Rhodes both added 1 hit, scored 1 run and had 1 rbi. Boothe pitched seven innings and allowed two earned runs on seven hits.

The Lady Rebels hit the field against Pike Liberal Arts for the third time in two days, in the finals of the tournament, and this time managed only three hits and failed to get on the scoreboard in a 3-0 loss. The Lady Rebels stranded a runner on the base paths in both the first and second innings, left the bases loaded in the third after a single by Emily Rhodes and walks to Kaylee Hodge and Sydney Boothe, and ended up leaving eight runners on base in the frustrating 3-0 loss.

Riley Bannin, Kaylee Hodge and Emily Rhodes all had 1 hit to lead Zion Chapel at the plate, while Bannin pitched seven innings and allowed no earned runs on four hits, while striking out 10.

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Dear Mom...Thanks for Always Being There!



Happy Mother's Day to the Best Mother ever!
Love, Dee Dee, and Marcus
and the Grands and Great-Grands!!

Making Memories with Our Mom!



Love, Dawn & Denise



Thank you for always being there
for me! I love you so much!! ~ Lisa



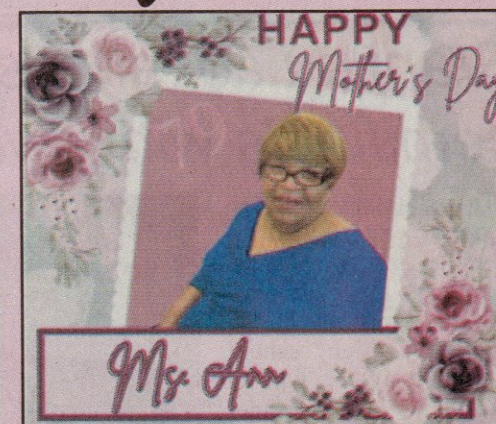
Happy Mother's Day
To the most amazing, loving &
caring woman we know!
Mom (Gran), you will never
know the joy you bring to us and
our families!! God blessed us with
the best, and we are so grateful!
We Love You, Vicky & Jill



Thank You for being a
GREAT Mother! We Love You!!
Chafin and Cameron



Happy Mother's Day
to the best mother and wife
in the world!
We Love You!
Bryson, Kendrick & James



Happy Mother's Day
to the best mom in the
world! Thanks for always
bein' my biggest supporter!
I Love You So Much!
Reese



In Memory of my
#1 Mom, Eva Mooney



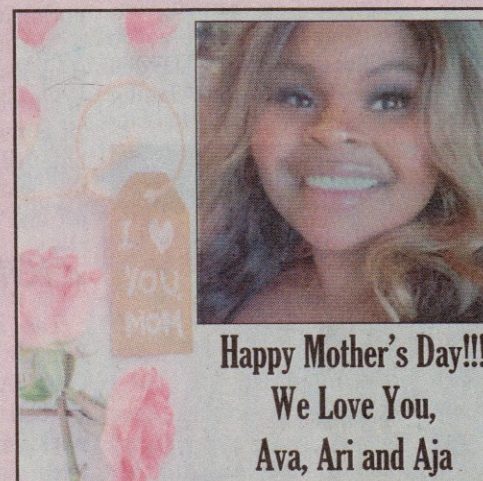
In Honor of my #2 Mom,
Catherine Hudson



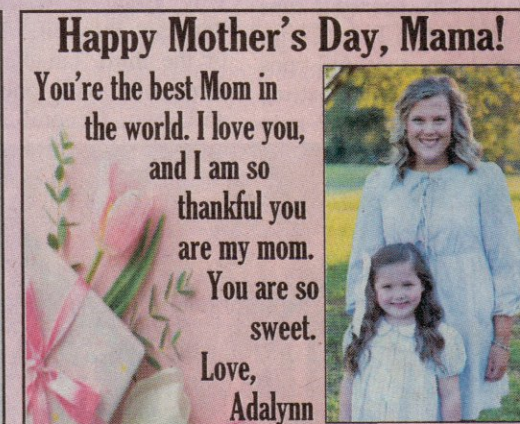
I hope you have a great
Mother's Day!
I Love You! London



Happy Mother's Day
to the best Mom & Gigi around!
We Love You!!



Happy Mother's Day!!!
We Love You,
Ava, Ari and Aja



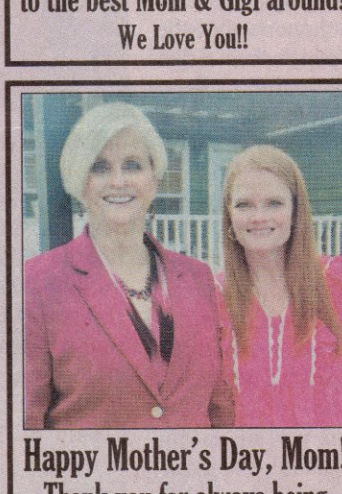
Happy Mother's Day, Mama!
You're the best Mom in
the world. I love you,
and I am so
thankful you
are my mom.
You are so
sweet.
Love,
Adalynn



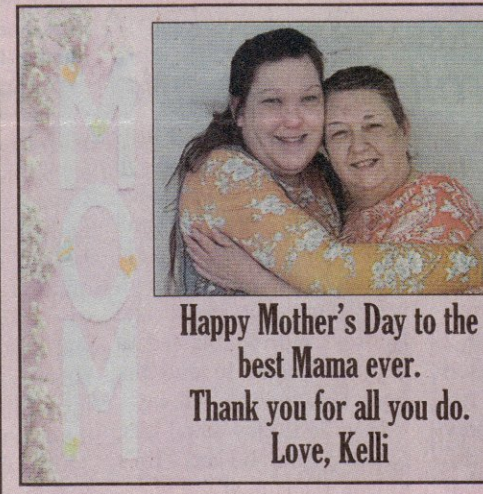
Cara,
Thank you for always loving
us like we are yours!
~ The Kids of City Hall
"Love Makes a Mom"



Thank You for
always showing up
and
showing out!
~ The Bane Children



Happy Mother's Day, Mom!
Thank you for always being
there and believing in me!
I Love You! Jessica



Happy Mother's Day to the
best Mama ever.
Thank you for all you do.
Love, Kelli



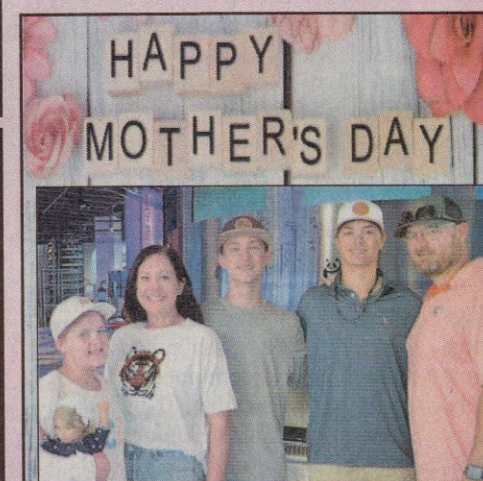
Happy Mother's Day
We love you more than a
fat kid loves cake!
;) Love Always, Keelie and Kayden



There isn't a card big enough
to list all the things I love
about you!
We Love You!! Dawn & Wesley



Mom, thank you for your
love and support throughout
the years. We admire your
strength and compassion,
especially all the times you
sacrificed and took care of
family. We Love You!
Sarah, Wendy, Andrea
& Angie



Thank You for Always Being There!
We Love You to the Moon and Back!!
Bradley, Powell, Jacks & Bella



I have the best
MOM
in the world!
You're the Best!
Love, KK and Khris



Thanks for being the
Best Mommy!!
Love, Baby Stevie



Happy heavenly Mother's Day!
Today and every day, we honor you, Mama.
Your love shaped our hearts, your strength
carried us, and your prayers still cover us.
Mother's Day will never be the same without
your smile, your laughter, and your warm hugs
- but your memory lives on in everything we do.
We miss you more than words can say.
Forever in our hearts,
Tony, Monique, Jeaneva, and Bobby



Happy
Mom's
Day!!
We are so thankful
for our mom and all
she does for us!!
We Love You!
Your Gang



Happy
Mother's Day
in memory
of our sweet
mom!
You are always in our hearts!
Love, Linda & Latisha



Happy Mother's Day
to the Best Mom
in the World!
Thank You for your
unselfish love.
I'm so glad God
gave you to me!!
Love, Levi